

## Governor Riley Announces Additional Counties Added to Federal Disaster Declaration

MONTGOMERY – Governor Bob Riley announced Thursday that President Bush has approved his request to add more Alabama counties to the list of those covered by the federal disaster declaration due to damage caused by Hurricane Katrina.

“Federal assistance plays a vital role in helping Alabama’s hurricane victims get back on their feet,” said Governor Riley. “We’re continuing to work with local and federal partners to get assistance to our people in need, and we’ll do so as long as necessary. I want to express my gratitude to President Bush for helping us to get our recovery underway as quickly as possible.”

Residents of Greene, Hale, Pickens and Tuscaloosa counties are now eligible to receive individual assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Storm victims in these counties can apply for federal assistance to help with temporary housing, rental assistance, individual housing program grants and other types of federal help. Individuals must first register with FEMA by calling 1-800-621-FEMA.

In addition, Hale, Jefferson, Marengo and Tuscaloosa counties have been added to the list of counties eligible for infrastructure assistance due to storm damage.

President Bush earlier approved Governor Riley’s request to declare Baldwin, Mobile, Washington, Clarke, Choctaw and Sumter counties as federal disaster areas. Of those, Baldwin, Mobile and Washington were declared for individual assistance.

Additional Alabama counties could be added to the disaster declaration based on damage assessments.

The Alabama Emergency Management Agency and local Emergency Management Agencies continue to coordinate with the American Red Cross on shelter operations for Alabamians displaced by Hurricane Katrina as well as evacuees from Louisiana and Mississippi.